

S E C R E T

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10 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Presidential Briefing Coordinator

SUBJECT : Preparations for the 15 August Presidential Briefing

1. Attached are packages on five subjects, two or three of which you might want to use if you brief the President on 15 August.

2. Soviet-Cuban Options in Southern Africa has been expanded to include more discussion of the political factors involved. I include talking points that hopefully condense and focus the briefing more sharply.

3. Cuban Manpower is a short item that you can incorporate in your introduction to Soviet-Cuban Options in Southern Africa. It simply points out that when people like George Ball imply we can relax because Cuba is a puny country severely limited in the forces it can deploy or the losses it can accept, they are not correct as long as we are talking a few tens of thousands of troops and Soviet supplies.

4. US-USSR Arms Transfers need take no more than a couple minutes, but you may want to tell the President it is being released. The last version of the paper only counted hardware sales and deliveries, about which we are reasonably sure, but this yardstick did not support the administration's arms sales limiters' position that the US had been the world's leading arms merchant before they had diligently set out to solve the problem. They were peevish in the press about it. So this paper has a yardstick for everybody.

5. Law of the Sea is an update of what you have seen. The next LOS conference starts 21 August in New York. In addition a PRC Meeting on LOS scheduled 16 August was canceled; it appears that Ambassador Richardson is arguing for a relaxation on deep sea mining while others in State, Treasury, and perhaps others are for standing pat. Therefore, if State and Treasury are unable to arrive at consensus the President may be called upon to decide. Apart from this possibility the briefing could also be given on 22 August, the day after the conference opens with no real loss of currency.

6. Afghanistan is covered in a briefing based on a recently completed interagency study. The DCI believes that the President should have a wrap-up on the situation there now that the smoke has cleared a bit.



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Attachments

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cc: D/NFAC
AD-M/NFAC

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